



## John H. Oates

**Fire Chief  
Town of East Hartford**

Chief Oates was appointed in October 2008 to lead the East Hartford Fire Department. He is responsible for overall strategic leadership to ensure the department is well positioned to provide the best service to the citizens and visitors of the community. To accomplish this Chief leads 130 members assigned to seven different divisions (Fire Operations, Fire Marshal, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Training, Apparatus Repair Division, Alarm & Signal Division, and Administration) providing a broad range of fire services to the community.

Before coming to East Hartford, Chief Oates attained a broad base of experience while working as a Battalion Chief in West Hartford, Connecticut, as the Fire Marshal in Granby, Connecticut, and as an Adjunct Instructor for the Connecticut Fire Academy. He is currently one of two Commanders for the Capital Region Incident Management. This position has provided Chief Oates experience in the management of major emergencies that has been valuable during the Town's response and recovery from multiple natural disasters.

Chief Oates also serves as the Chair of a National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee that focuses on safety at motorsports events. This work has provided information, resources, and best practices that have been applied to mass gathering events held in East Hartford including at Rentschler Field and the annual Riverfest event.

Chief Oates has spent a considerable portion of his career focused on improving health, wellness, and safety within the fire service community. Through his work with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), he has brought an increased focus on wellness, fitness, behavioral health, and overall safety to the department. In 2009, he was the recipient of the Seal of Excellence Award from the NFFF for 'Dedication, Leadership, and Commitment to Firefighter Safety'

Chief Oates has a BS from Franklin Pierce University, is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program, and holds numerous professional certifications.